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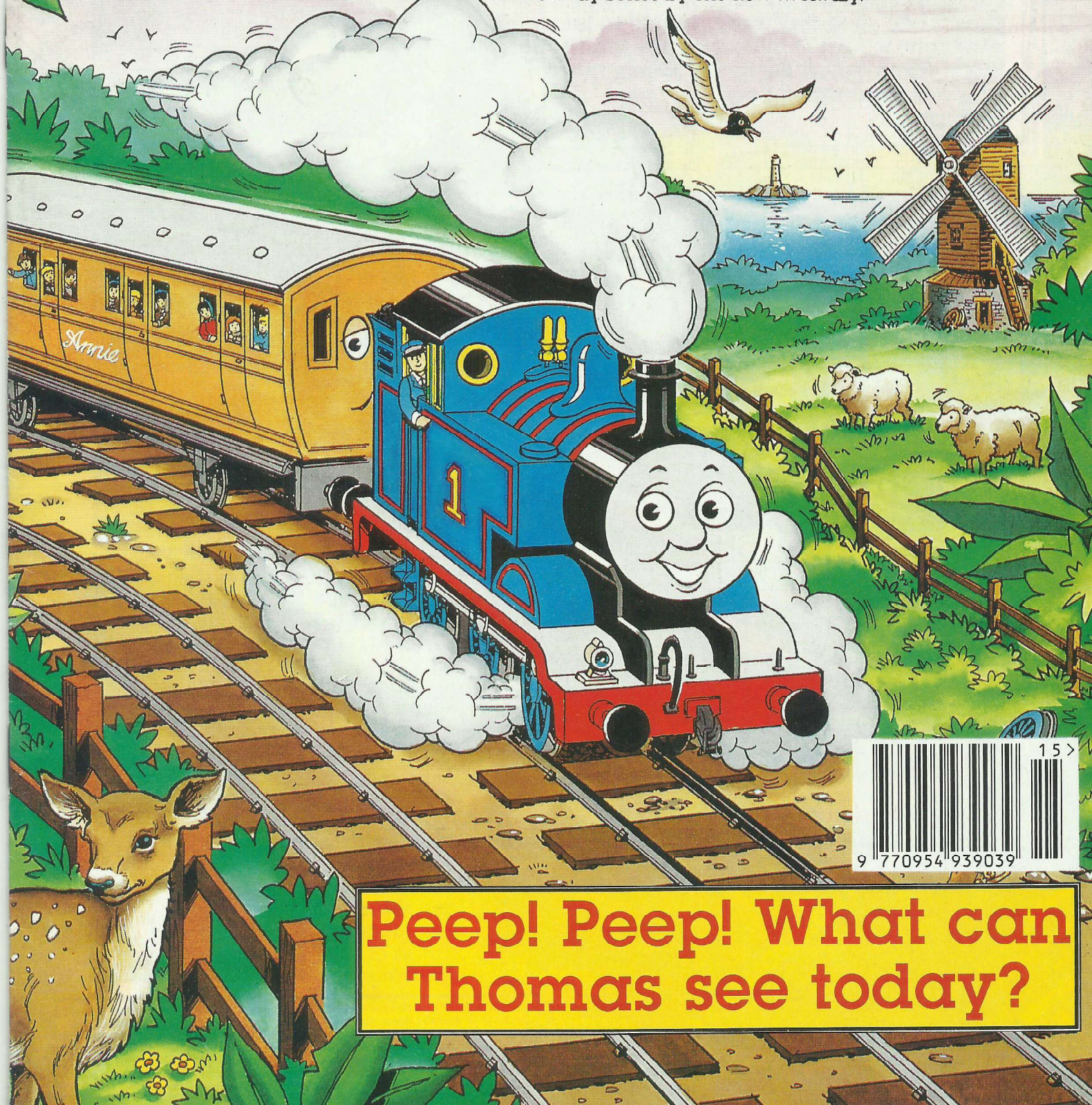
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



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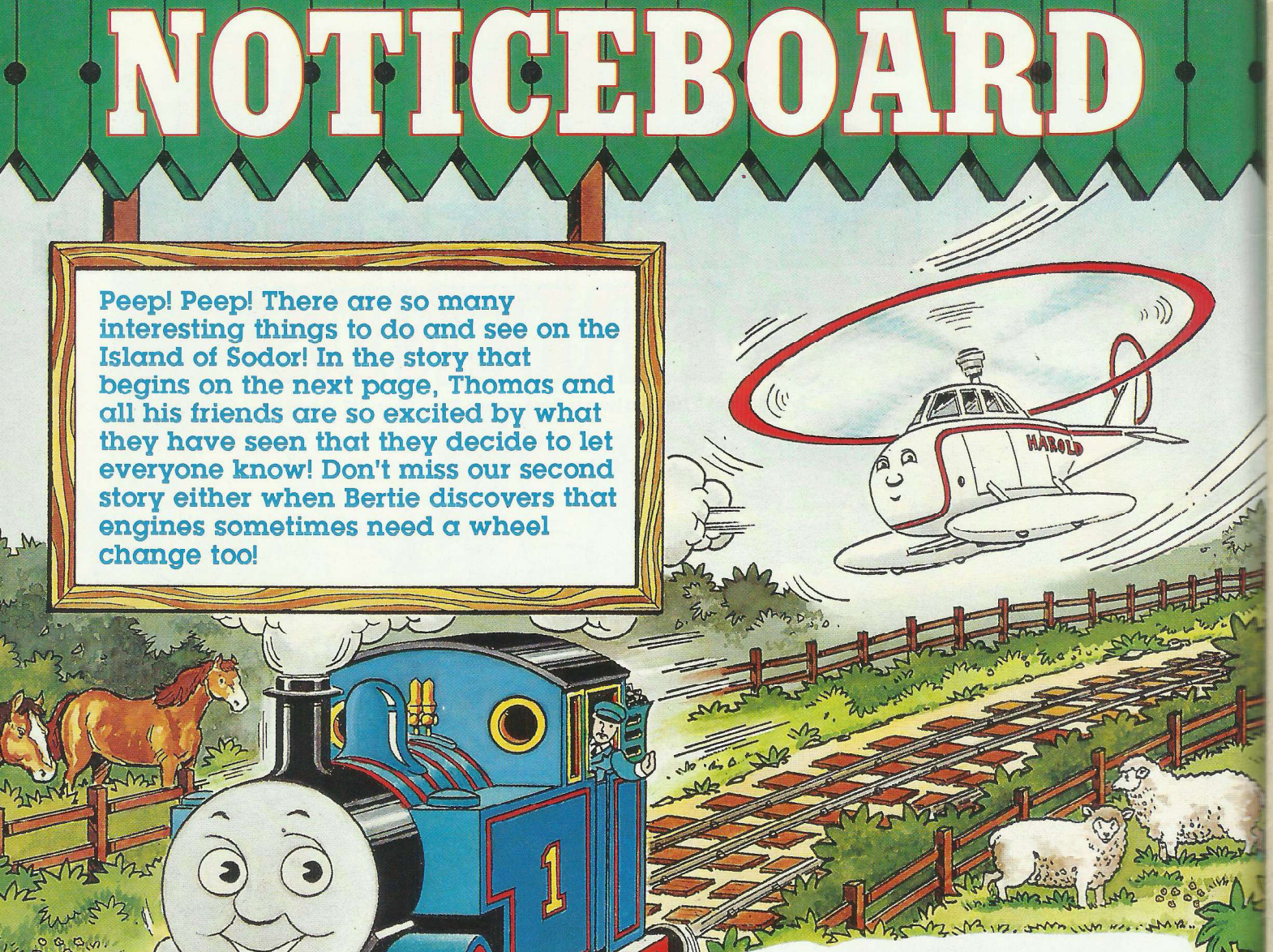
Peep! Peep! What can Thomas see today?

NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! There are so many interesting things to do and see on the Island of Sodor! In the story that begins on the next page, Thomas and all his friends are so excited by what they have seen that they decide to let everyone know! Don't miss our second story either when Bertie discovers that engines sometimes need a wheel change too!



OUR NEXT COMPETITION!

In our next issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine**, you can be the proud winner of one of the super **miniature** range of toys from *ERTL (UK) Ltd*, which includes both **6** and **4 piece** playsets! Don't miss it!

SPECIAL OFFER!

Turn to **page 7** and find out how you can win **Weetos** new range of toy spectacles!

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode ..... **Age** ...

THOMAS TOKEN

ABC

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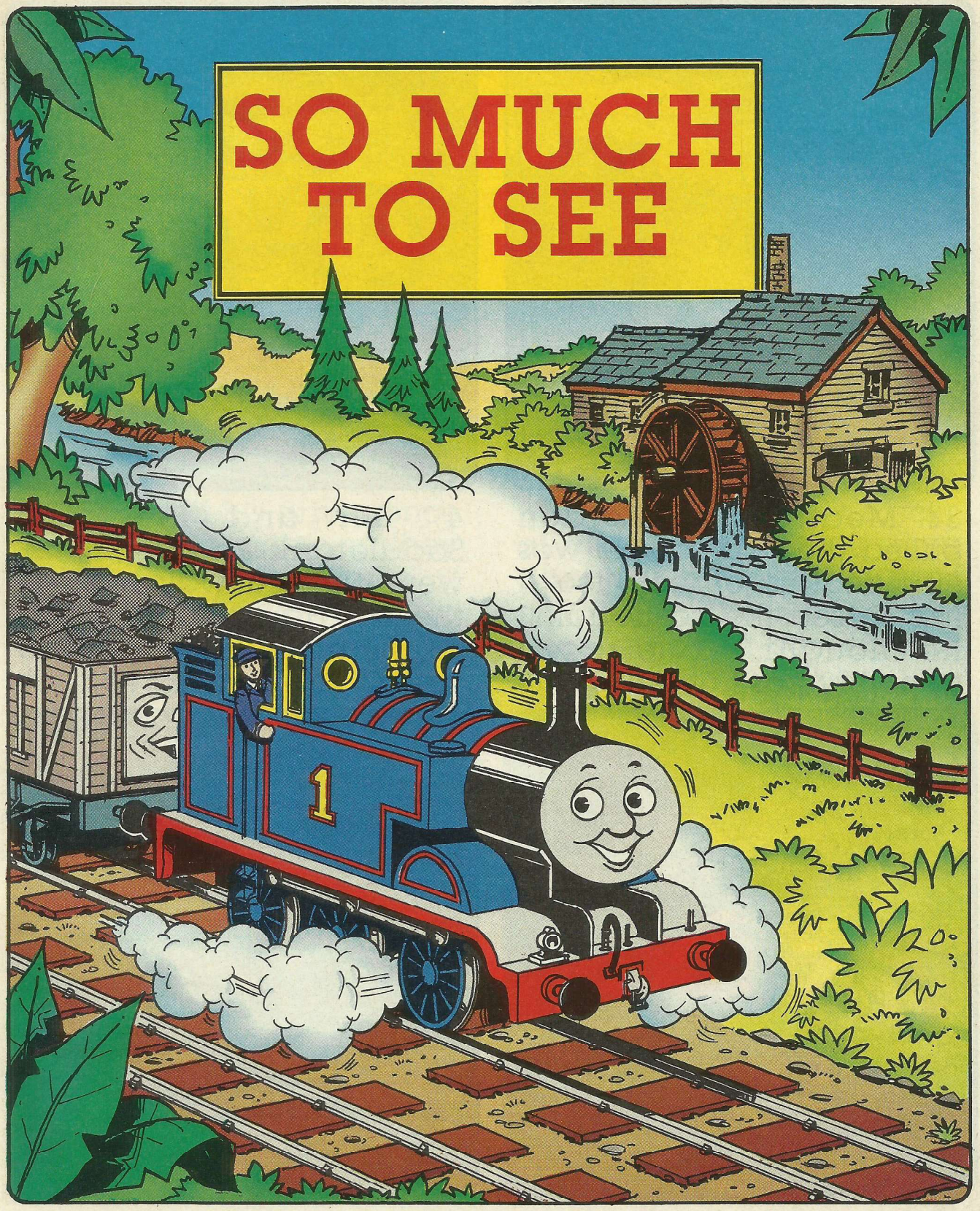
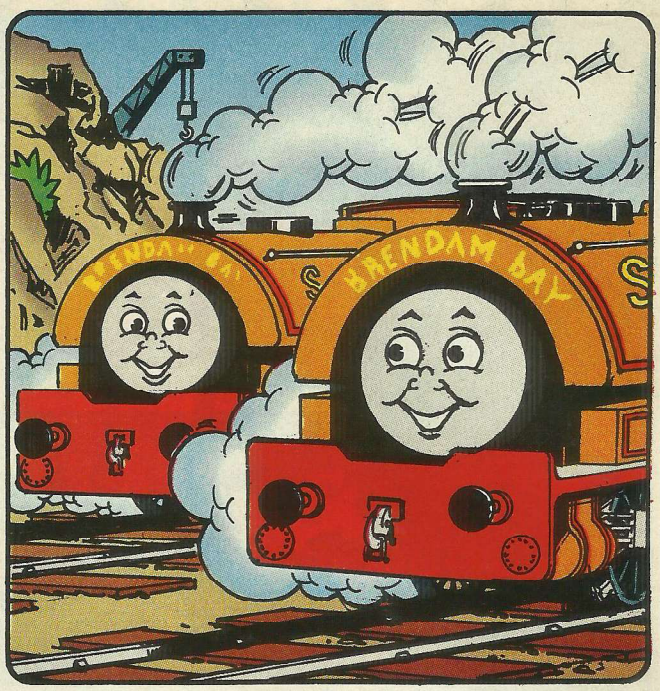


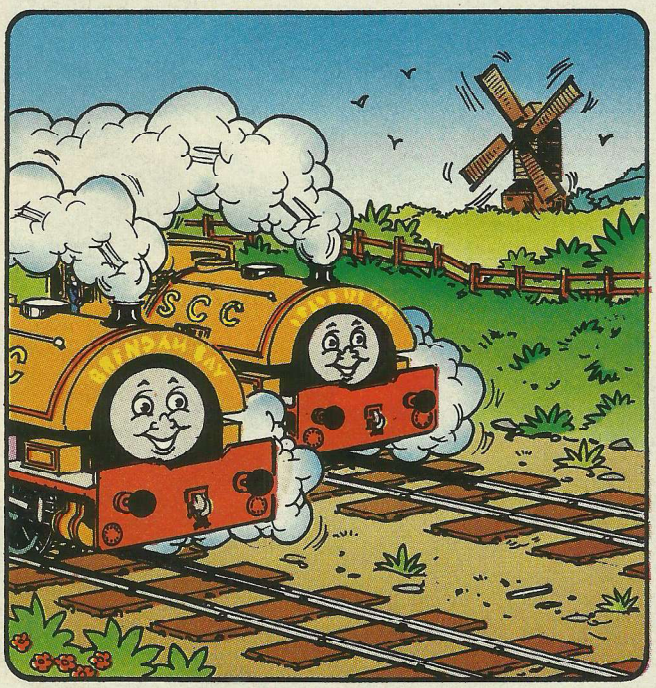
1. One morning, Thomas was pulling a goods train along his branch line. He passed by a mill which had a big wooden wheel fixed to one side.

2. "Water from the river turns the wheel and works the mill," said Thomas's driver. "Peep!" whistled Thomas, cheerily. "I like to watch the wheel go round!"

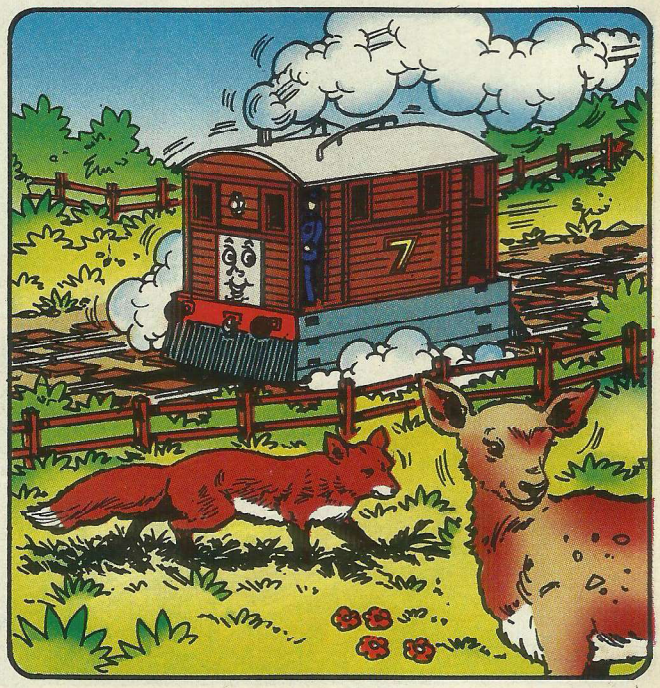
3. Meanwhile, Gordon pulled the Express. He was enjoying his journey, too! "I like to see the castle ruin!" he thought, as he raced smoothly past!



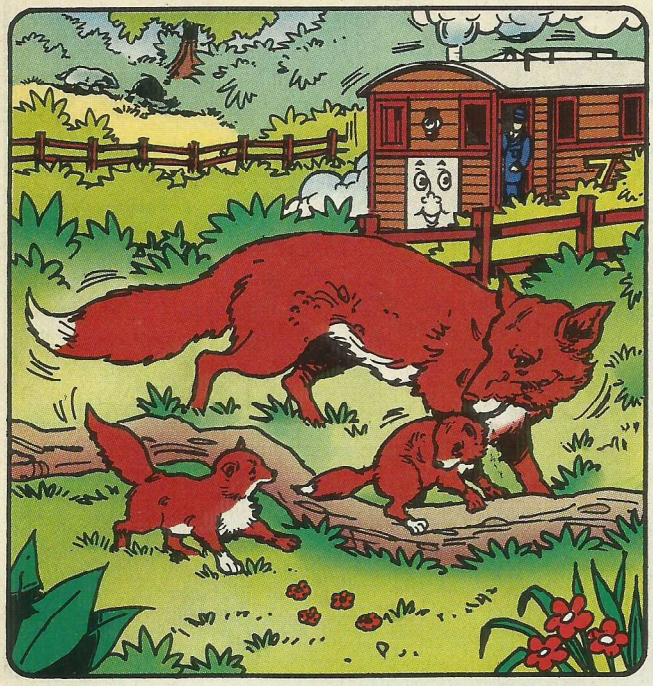
4. Bill and Ben, the Saddletank Engine twins, were on their way back to the Big Harbour. "There is so much to see on the way," they both agreed.



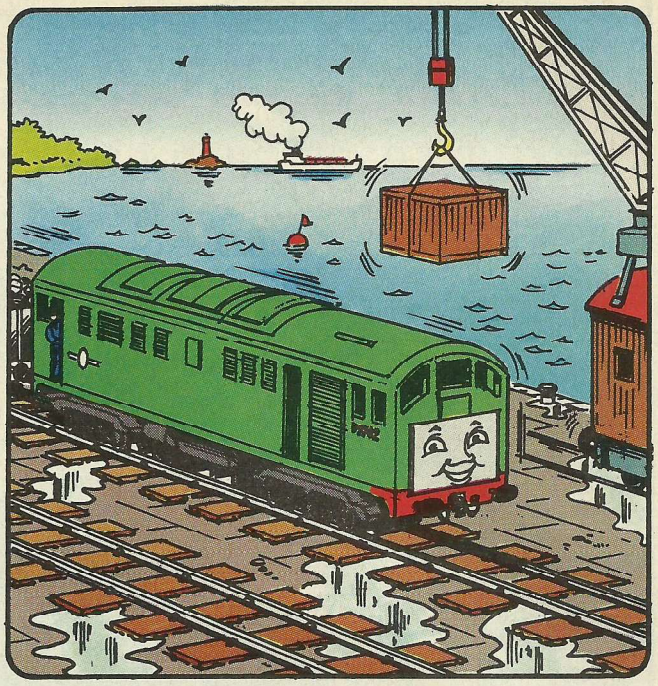
5. "Look at the windmill!" cried Bill. "See how the wind is turning its sails! Round and round the sails turn, so as the miller can grind the corn!"



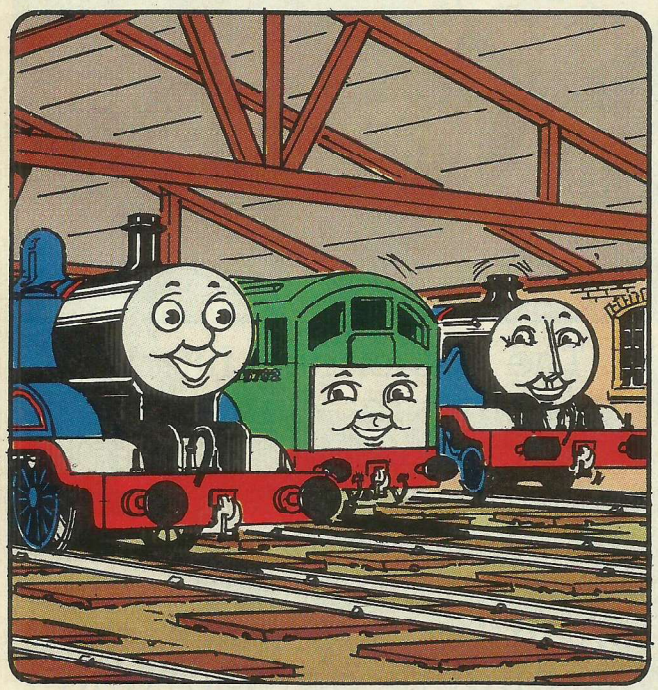
6. Meanwhile, Toby, the old fashioned steam driven tram engine, could see rabbits scurrying through the fields as he worked on his outlying quarry line.



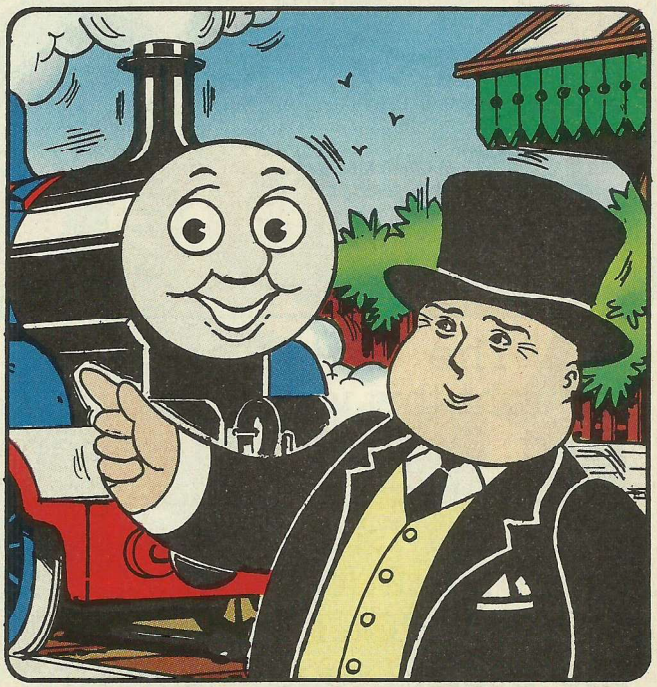
7. Toby and his driver once stopped on the line so they could watch a family of foxes, without disturbing them. At dusk, Toby sometimes saw a badger!



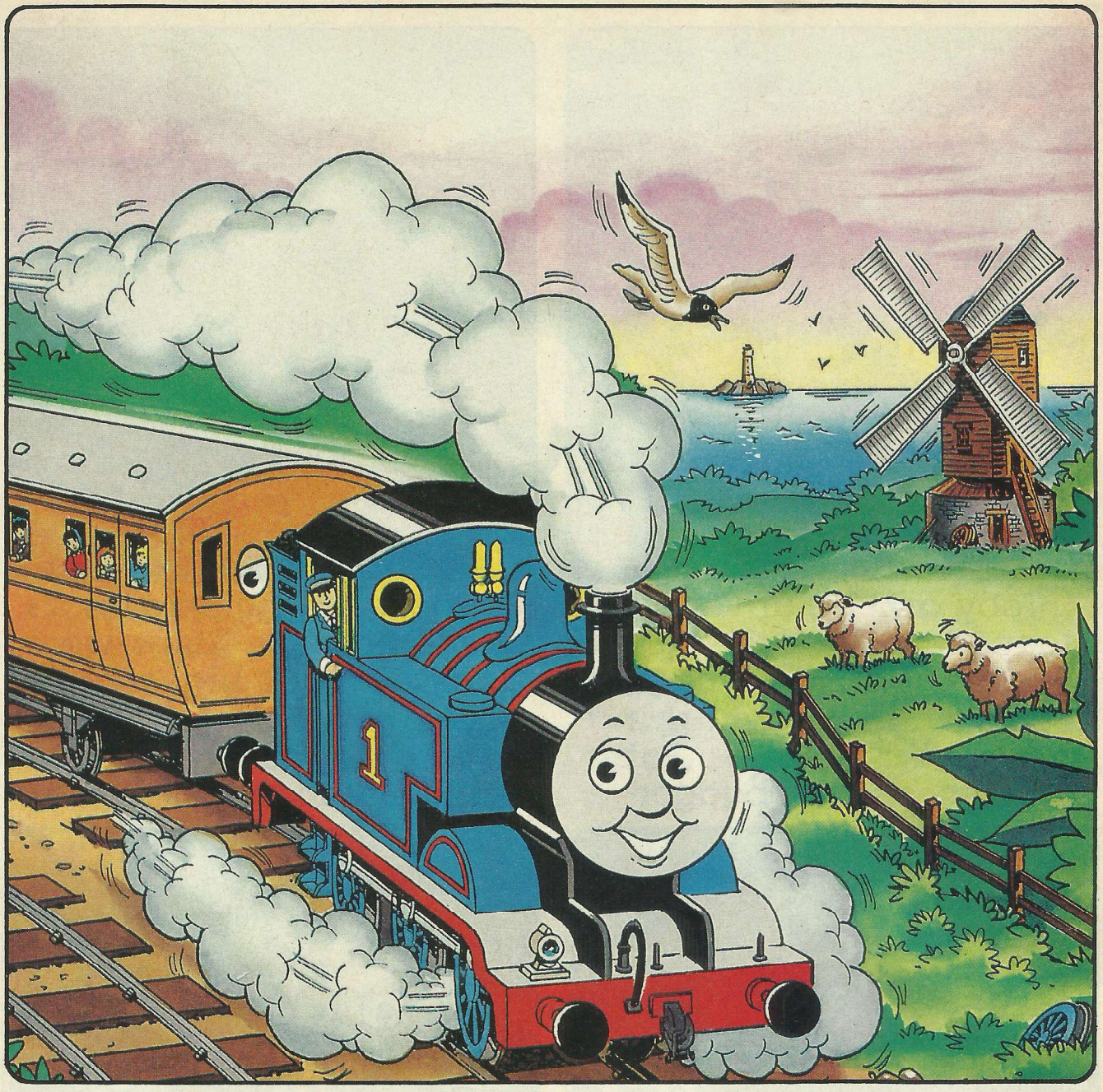
8. Boco was pulling trucks at the harbour. Ships were docking and big cranes unloaded their cargoes. Boco enjoyed seeing the lighthouse in the distance.



9. That evening in the shed, the engines talked about the things they had seen. "Our passengers would like to see these things too," said Thomas.



10. Next morning, Thomas spoke to the Fat Controller about his idea. "Please, sir! Can we run a sightseeing train to show visitors the Island of Sodor?"



11. The Fat Controller thought this was a splendid idea. Posters were soon displayed at stations all over the Island of Sodor. 'Next Saturday: THOMAS'S SPECIAL SIGHTSEEING RIDE!' the posters read. Soon, the special day arrived and Thomas was coupled to Annie and Clarabel. The station was full of people.

12. The passengers filled all the seats in Annie and Clarabel. They were delighted to see so many interesting sights all round the Island of Sodor. "What a delightful journey!' the passengers agreed and thanked the Fat Controller. The Fat Controller then thanked his engines for their splendid idea.

THE END

In our next issue: The Railway Open day!

READERS OFFER!

25 SETS OF WACKY WEETO GLASSES TO BE WON!

You've all seen the zany Professor, that eccentric inventor on television and on the packs of the delicious chocolate cereal, ***Weetos!*** Well, now here's your chance to win a pair of wacky ***Weetos glasses*** - just like the ones that the Prof wears!

Weetos contain all the goodness of whole wheat with a scrumptious chocolate flavour! The Prof makes them extra tasty and crispy in his ***Weetos*** chocolate factory and he is never without his special Weetos glasses to help him!

For your chance to win a pair of the Prof's zany glasses, simply send your name and address on a postcard, to: **Weetos/Thomas the Tank Engine Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.**

The first **25** entries we receive will each be sent a pair of the **Prof's super specs!**

A read-aloud story!

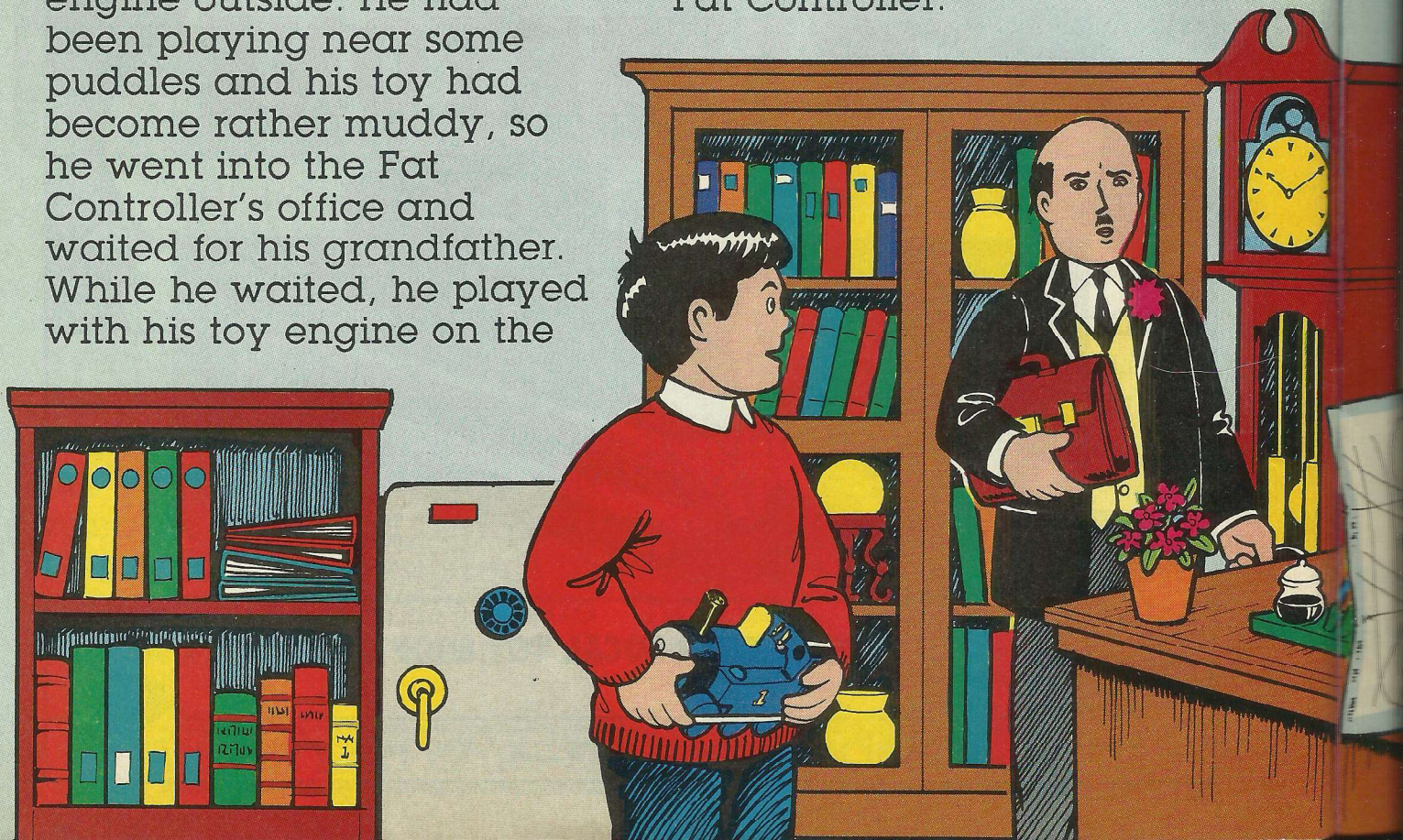
THE NEW TRACK!

One day, the Fat Controller was busy in his office arranging for a new section of railway track to be laid on the Island of Sodor. For hours he sat at his desk sketching the new plan on to a piece of paper. "There, that's just how it should look," he said at last, leaving the paper behind as he went home for his lunch.

The Fat Controller's grandson, Stephen, who had come to stay for a short holiday, had been playing with his toy engine outside. He had been playing near some puddles and his toy had become rather muddy, so he went into the Fat Controller's office and waited for his grandfather. While he waited, he played with his toy engine on the Fat Controller's desk. Stephen didn't notice that some mud from the engine's wheels had been smeared over the Fat Controller's plans.

After lunch, the Fat Controller was talking to some men who were to make a working model from his design for the new railway track.

"That way, we can see if it would work properly before building the real track," said the model-maker. "You'll find the plan on my office desk," said the Fat Controller.

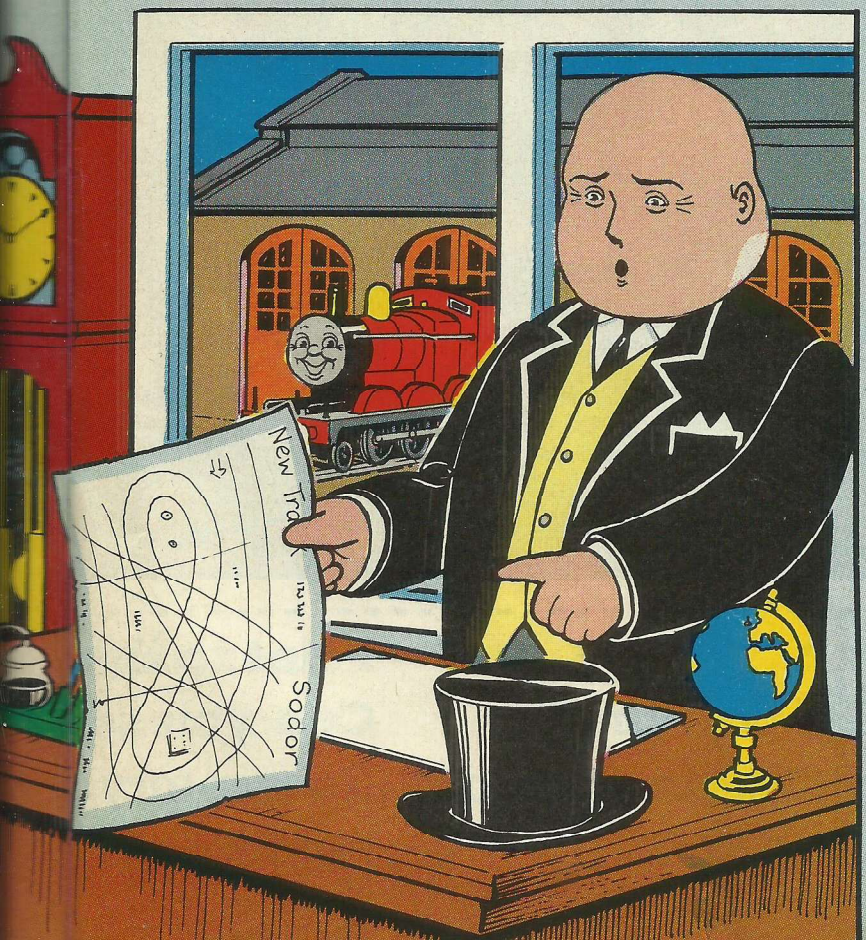


But what a shock the Fat Controller had the next morning when the model was unveiled. "Whatever is this?" he asked in astonishment. "This layout of railway track is far too complicated!"

"It is the new section of railway, made to your plan," replied the model-maker.

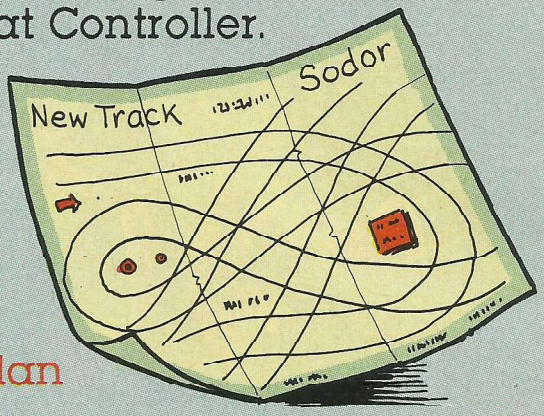
Stephen entered the room holding his toy engine, just as the Fat Controller and the model-maker were both looking at the plan.

"Why, this isn't my design!" exclaimed the Fat Controller. "It looks as if mud marks are all over it!"



At that very moment, the Fat Controller spotted the dried mud stuck on to the wheels of Stephen's toy engine.

"Have you been playing with that toy engine on my desk, Stephen?" asked the Fat Controller.



plan

"Yes, grandfather," answered Stephen. "It was too muddy outside yesterday, so I played on your desk!"

"I thought the mud-marks were part of the new track design," said the model-maker.

"Thank goodness we only made the model and not the real route from this plan," said the Fat Controller. "Our engines would have been very dizzy following such a winding route!"

Stephen promised he would be more careful in future and always keep his engines clean, just like the big engines on the Fat Controller's railway!

THE END

Behind the v

Which engine can you see?

How many passengers is he carrying?

Which event are the people taking part in?

How many stalls can you see?

Point to the m

Can you see t

How many pe

Point to the vi

village fête!

he main tent!

see the clown?

y people are climbing the tree?

he village church!

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next issue: Over the big bridge!

COLOURING TIME!

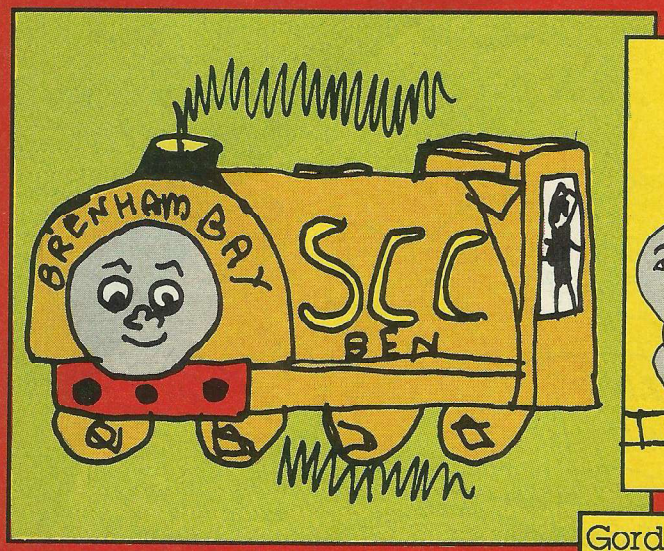
Thomas has seen lots of things today,
So colour him in without delay!

JOIN THE DOTS!

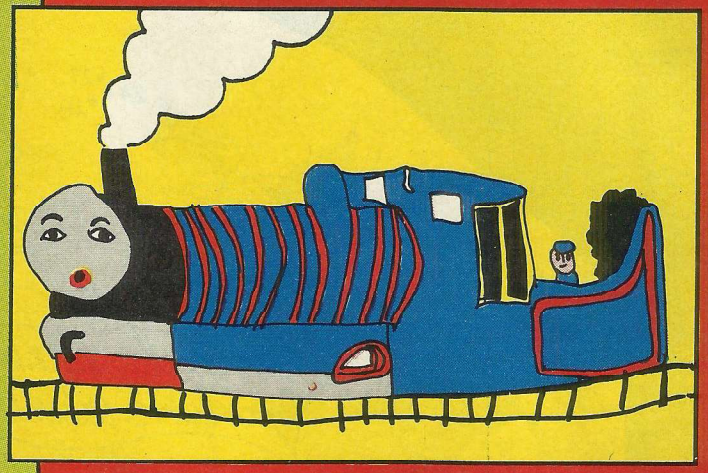
Stephen and Bridget have gone to the fête, They've found things there which are really great!

YOUR DRAWINGS
for the Fat Controller!

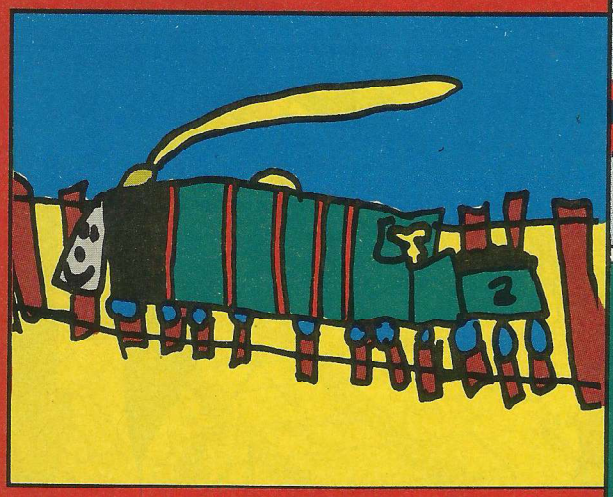
Here are some of the many splendid drawings that you have sent in to us. Can you see your picture!



This rather charming drawing of Ben, the Saddletank Twin was sent in by **Jonathan Woftasz**, aged 5 from Suffolk!



Gordon has been signalled to stop beneath a bridge. Our congratulations go out to **Betheny Clarke**, aged 9, for sending us such a super drawing!

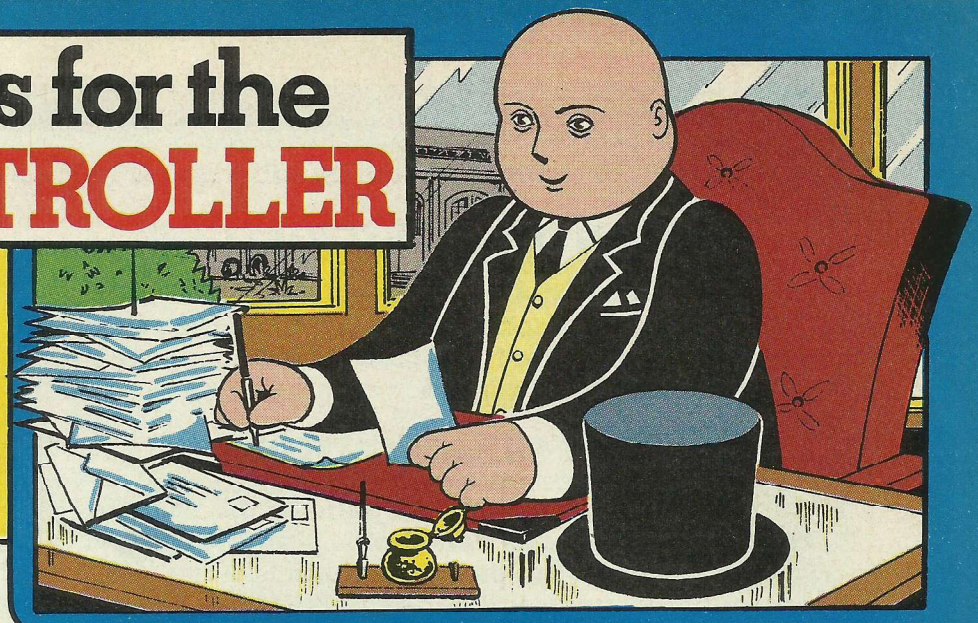


Peep! Peep! It's Henry puffing hard to reach the top of the hill! This splendid picture has been coloured by **Richard Folkes**, aged 7 from Wales!

Can you see Thomas pulling his trucks along the countryside! Look! There is also a splendid rainbow. This well coloured picture has been sent in by **Shaun Rich**, aged 6!

Thank you all for sending in your pictures! We are sorry that we can only print a few! If you would like to draw a picture and have a chance of seeing it printed in a future issue, please send it to: The Fat Controller (Picture Page), the Island of Sodor, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2 3DX.

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
Bertie is a Bus,
He can carry all of us,
His face is all of a smile,
Mile after mile,
My favourite train is Thomas,
But he is too well known,
So I think I like Bertie better,
As he is seldom shown!
Love from **Daniel Gill.**

Your verse is very splendid,
Bertie wished it had never ended!
Your verse has won a prize,
To write again would be wise!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid remote control **Thomas the Tank Engine** from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

HAROLD'S STORY!

Dear Fat Controller,
I liked the story about Percy, Harold and the hot air balloon! It looked really exciting and I would like to ride in a hot air balloon!

Love from **Edward Jennings**, aged 4.

Upon my soul! I also found the story about the hot air balloon very exciting indeed, especially when I first heard reports of a big ***'mysterious ball'*** *floating near Harold's airfield!*

EFFICIENT RAILWAY!

Dear Fat Controller,
I think Thomas and his friends are great and that you run your railway very efficiently. Please keep all your engines running well!

Love from **Paul Carless**, aged 4.

Well! I am very pleased that you think that my railway is run very efficiently. I do make sure that all of my engines are regularly serviced so there are very few breakdowns.

BIRTHDAYS!

Sean Hirst (38054), Bryn Lewis Watkinson (3397), Matthew D. Woodcock, Benjamin Garfield, Matthew Ben Tanner, Stuart J. Bradbury (34830), John W. Bradbury (34831), Natasha Cason (35095), Ludovic Fowles, Nicholas Bone (34774), Gregory Perkins (37645), Mark Grennel, Matthew Richards, Susannah Richards, Matthew Grump and a special mention to Paul Butcher (33010).

Special greetings also go out to Mark Irvine!

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least nine weeks in advance!

Yours,
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

A FREE NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL!

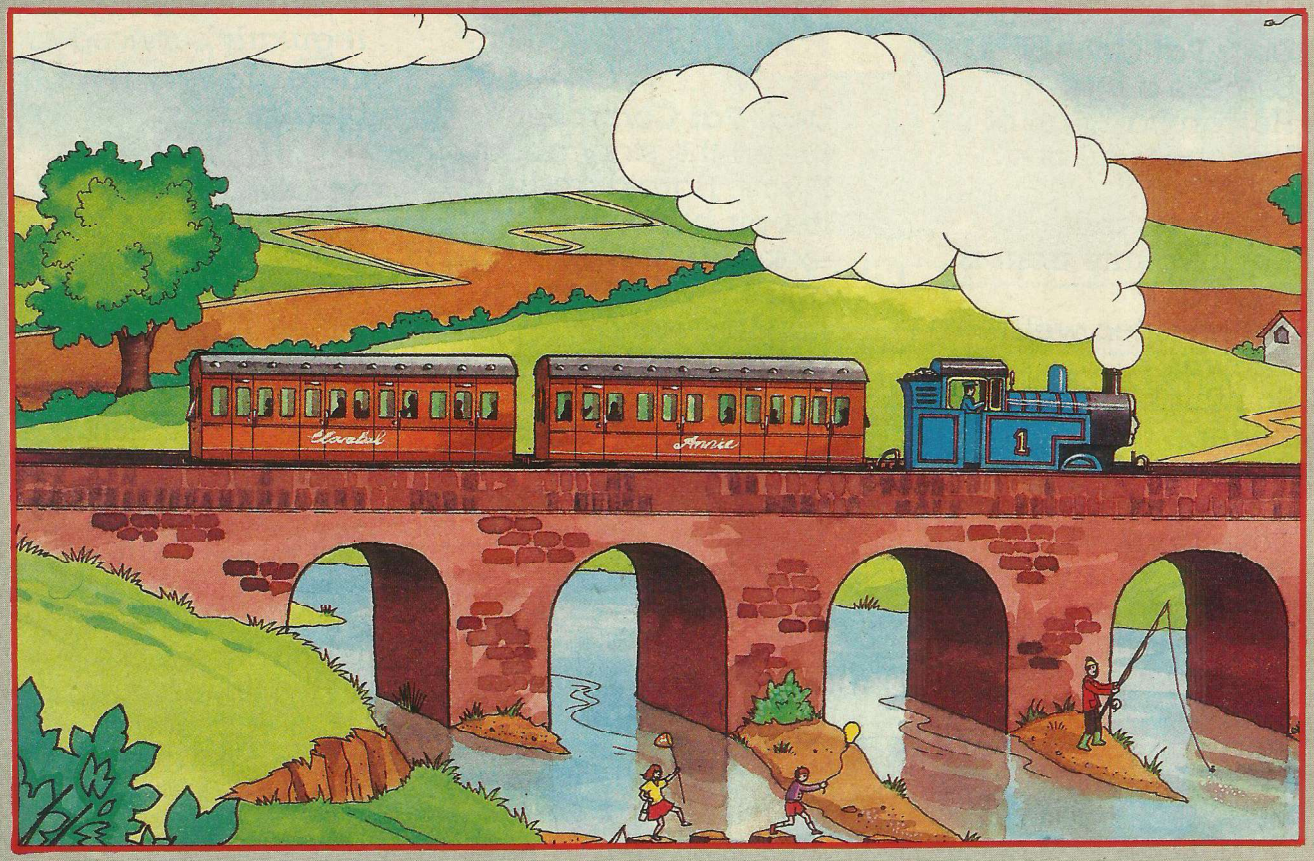
Give your child a great present by subscribing to Thomas's very own magazine ...

NEW 6-MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION!

For just £18.00 (£35.00 overseas), your child will be sent **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight for a whole year – or for **£10.00 (£18.00** overseas) you can subscribe for **6 months.**

EXTRA WITH SUBSCRIPTION

Your child will receive a FREE Thomas the Tank Engine Notebook and Pencil plus their own personalised **Fat Controller's Card** enabling them to enter special offers and competitions frequently open to **Fat Controller's Card** holders only.



Please send **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for:

☐ **1 year** for **£18.00 (£35** overseas)
☐ **6 months** for **£10.00 (£18.00** (overseas).

Child's name .....
Address .....
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Date of birth .....
Postcode .....

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order for £____ made payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.
☐ Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard with £____
Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Expiry date.....
Cardholder's signature .....
Parent's/donor's name Mr/Mrs/Ms .....
Address (if different from child's) .....
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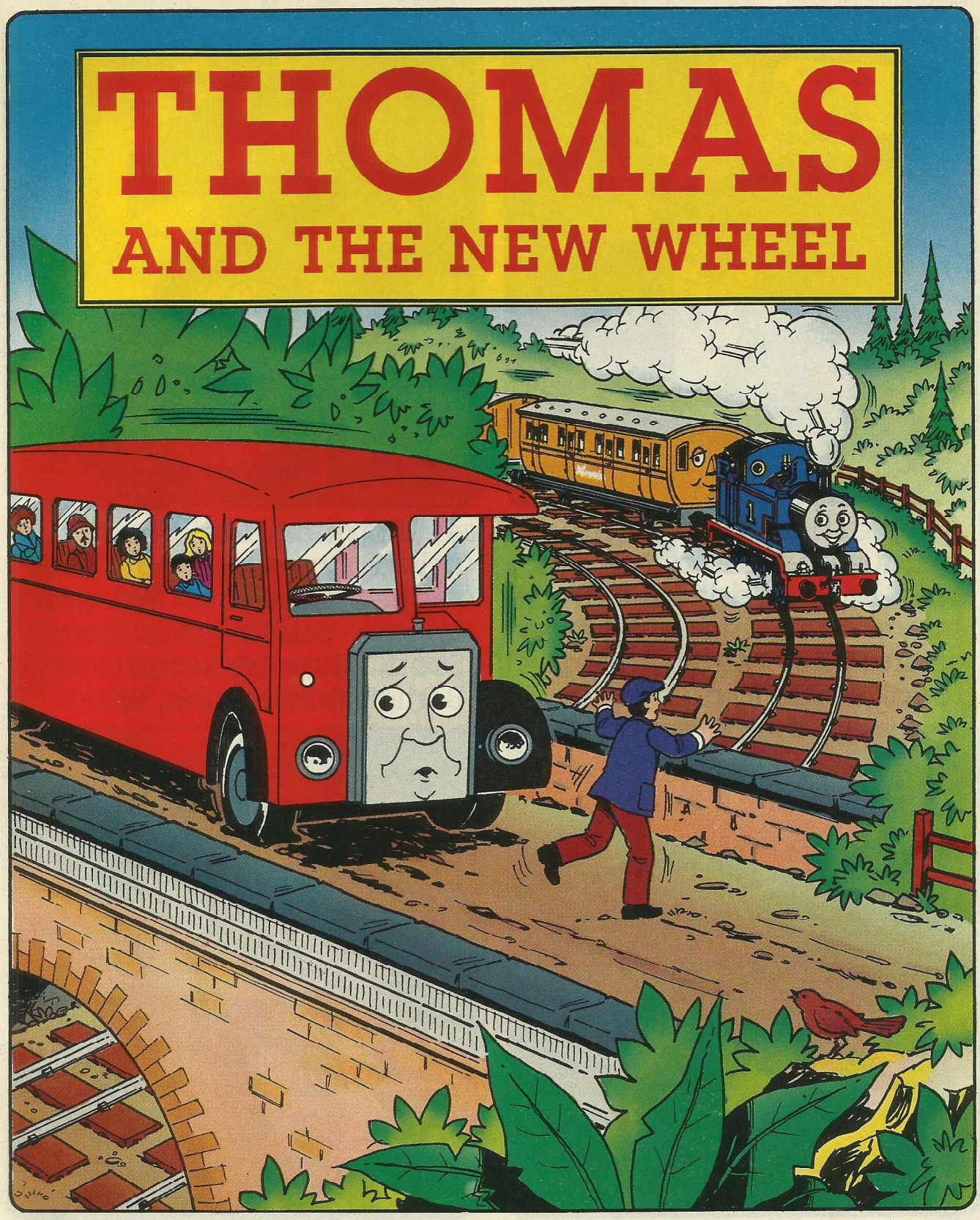
..... Postcode .....

Please send to: **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AA.**

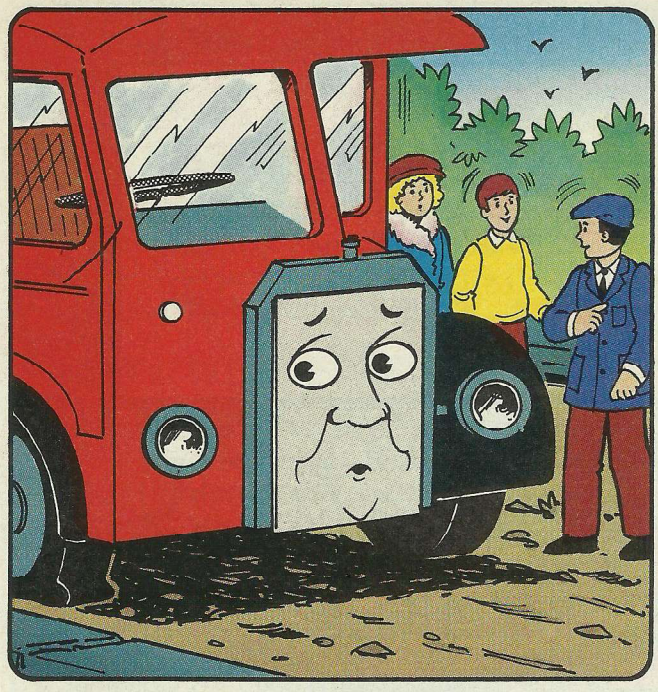
(Tick boxes where appropriate) FC2

THOMAS
AND THE NEW WHEEL



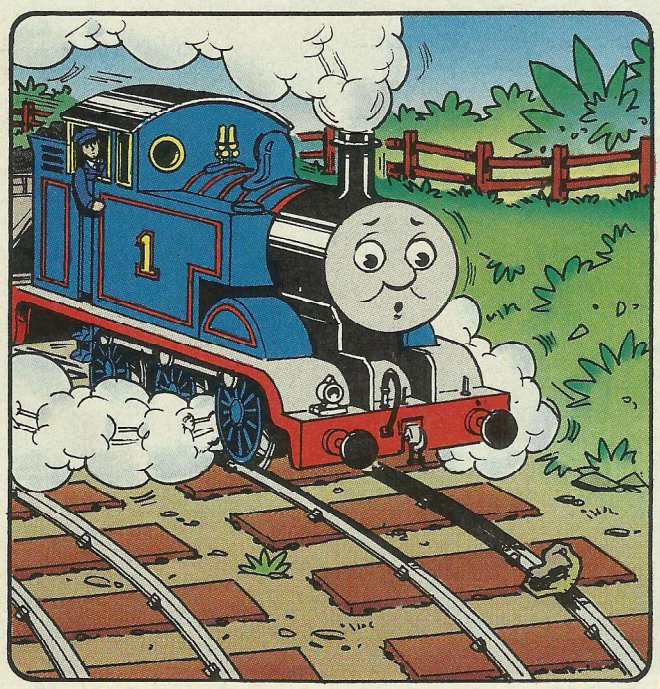
1. Thomas was taking a passenger train along his branch line. Just ahead, he saw Bertie the Bus on a bridge above the track. Bertie's driver waved.

2. "He wants me to stop!" said Thomas. Thomas's driver pulled on the brake. "Can Thomas take Bertie's passengers to the station?" called Bertie's driver.

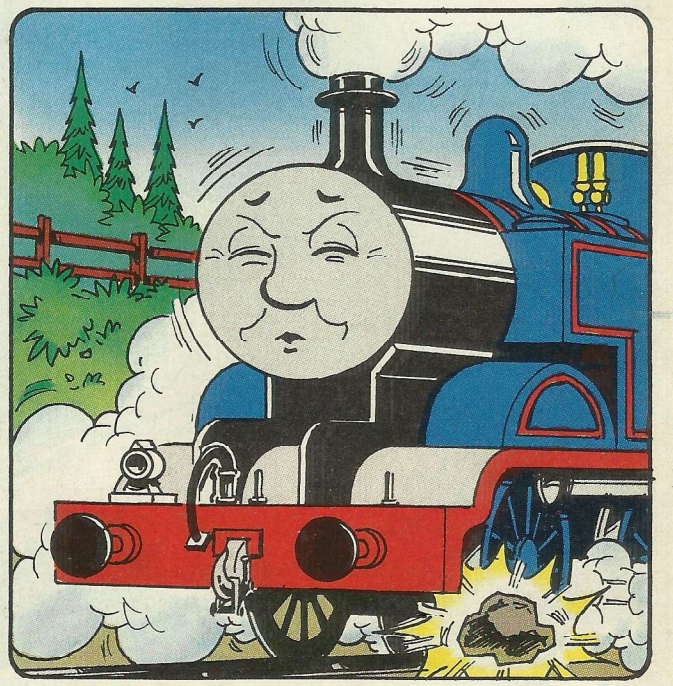


3. "Bertie cannot move because he has a flat tyre," said Bertie's driver. "I must have driven over something sharp in the road!" Bertie told Thomas.

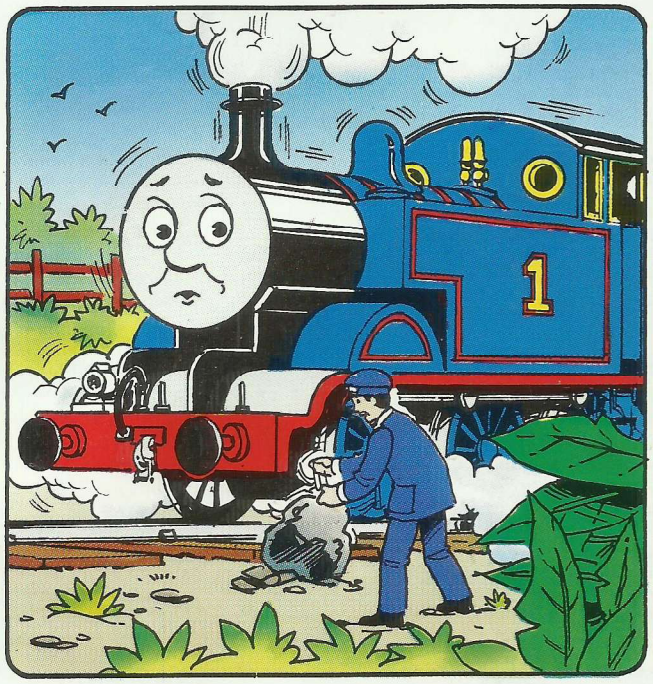
4. "Engines don't have air-filled tyres that go flat!" replied Thomas. "We don't let our passengers down!" Soon, Thomas set off, with Bertie's passengers, too.



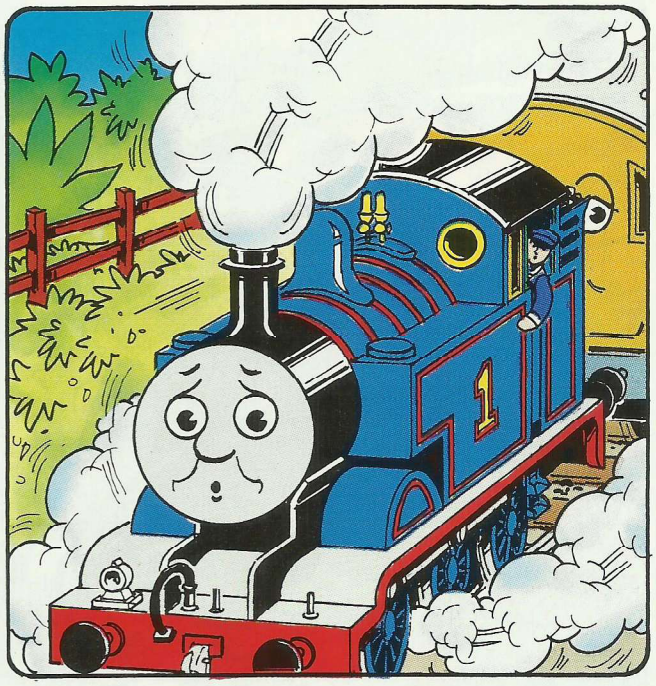
5. Next day, Thomas was pulling a goods train. As he went round a bend, he saw a rock lying on the track. It had fallen from a steep embankment, nearby!



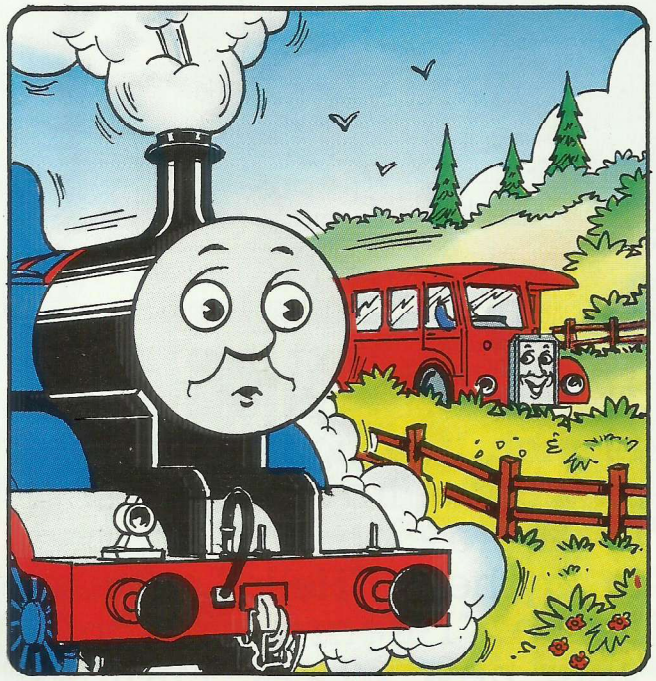
6. Thomas could not stop in time. One of his wheels ran right over the rock. There was a very loud noise! **CLANG!** The rock was very hard indeed!



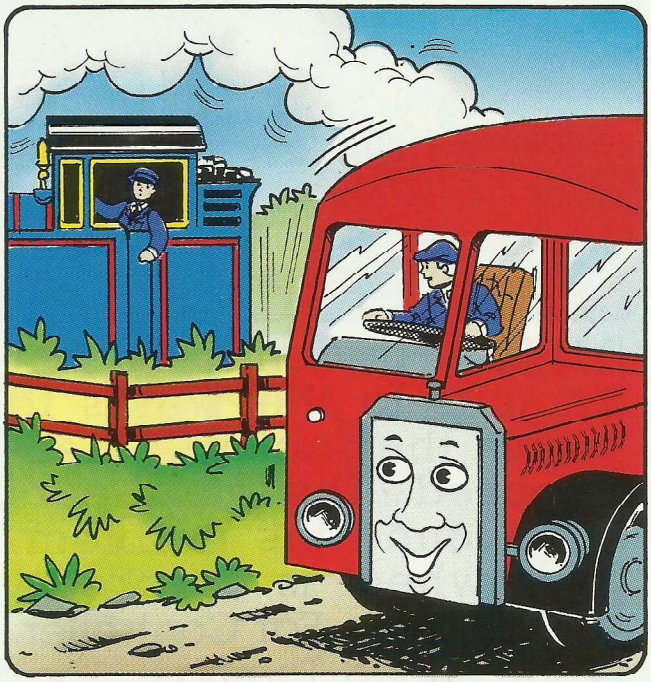
7. Thomas stopped and his driver climbed down to inspect for damage. "I'm alright," said Thomas. His driver moved the rock and Thomas set off again.



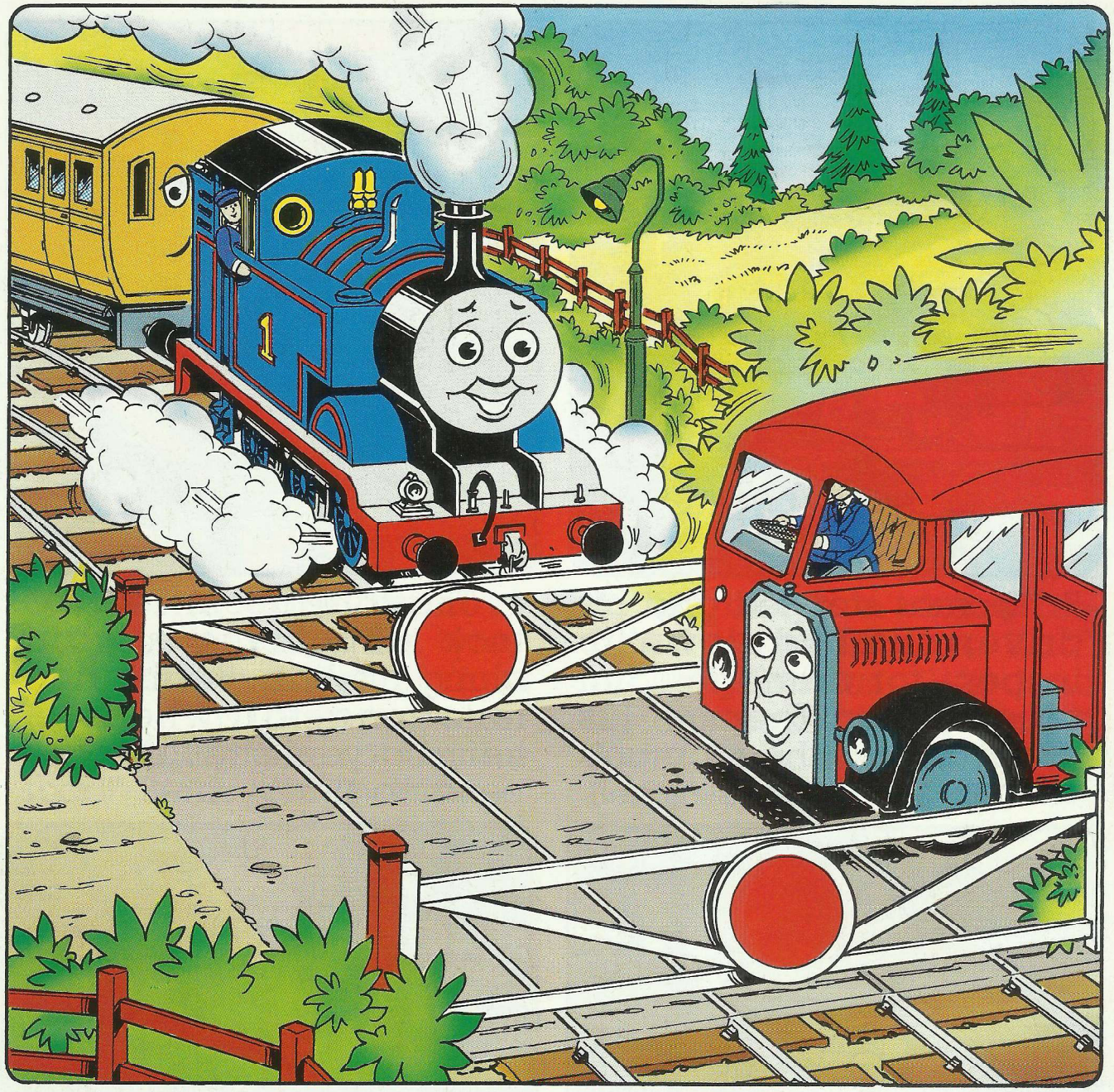
8. That afternoon, Thomas took a passenger train along his line. But he had not gone far when he heard a very strange noise beneath him.



9. Thomas stopped and the noise stopped, too. "I think it is coming from the wheel which hit the rock on the track, this morning!" said Thomas's driver.



10. Soon, Bertie arrived. "Thomas has got trouble with one of his wheels!" said Thomas's driver. One by one, Thomas's passengers boarded the bus.



11. The Fat Controller sent Thomas to the Works to have the noisy wheel checked. The engineers soon found the problem. "The wheel is cracked," they told the Fat Controller. "Pah!" huffed Thomas. "That nasty hard rock broke it!" The engineers removed the damaged wheel and fixed a new one in its place.

12. The next morning, Thomas set off along his branch line again. Thomas saw Bertie travelling over a level crossing and stopped to say hello. "Hello!" grinned Bertie. "I heard all about your new wheel. Engines may not have tyres, but you still need a wheel change sometimes, just like I do!" he teased.

THE END

In our next issue: Hovering Harold!